

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: 18 Sept 57

SUBJECT : IAEA matters

PARTICIPANTS: The Honorable Karl Gruber, Ambassador of Austria
Mr. Hanes, Acting Assistant Secretary, IO

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DOCUMENT NO. 16
NO CHANGE IN CLASS ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2011
AUTH: HR 73-2
DATE 17/3/81 REVIEWER: 018373

After a luncheon today at the Austrian Embassy, I spoke privately with Ambassador Gruber about IAEA matters.

I said that only today had we had any indication--which we had received from the Austrian Delegation in New York--that there was any connection in the minds of any other delegations concerning Gruber's holding the two positions of President of the Conference and Liaison Officer with the Austrian Government for the [redacted] I said that we saw no necessary connection, and saw no reason why one person should not hold both positions. I said that we, of course, from the point of view of propriety, felt that an Austrian should be the President of the Conference, and certainly it would be highly pleasing to us if that individual should be Ambassador Gruber. At the same time, we strongly supported his candidacy for the Liaison position. I said that, speaking personally, it seemed to me if his holding the position of President of the Conference appeared to jeopardize his appointment as Liaison Officer in the minds of other delegations, it would be unproductive to make an issue of the matter. Ambassador Gruber thoroughly agreed, and said that he had no strong feelings about the question of the Presidency. I emphasized again, however, that we saw no reason why the two should have any bearing on each other, and I was cabling Jerry Wadsworth for his estimate. Ambassador Gruber asked if I could let him know when we had had an answer, and I said we would be glad to do so.

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I also mentioned that, in our opinion, the Liaison Officer position ought to be on a level with the Deputy Directors General, rather than in any subordinate position. Ambassador Gruber was gratified to hear this, and said that he had worried somewhat about being "under the Executive Secretary".

I then mentioned to Ambassador Gruber that, from messages we had received from Vienna, there seemed to be some problem concerning the suitability of the residence for the Director General which the Austrian Government was apparently planning to provide. Ambassador Gruber expressed himself most strongly on this, saying that, both from the point of view of suitability for the Director General, and of the Austrian Government as "host" government, it was incumbent upon the Austrian Government to provide a residence thoroughly suitable in every respect. He said he would cable Vienna immediately about this and if any difficulty remained he would personally straighten it out upon his arrival in Vienna the end of this month.

IO:JWHanes, Jr.:hed.